

January 10, 2007

HEALTH ADVISORY

Meningococcal Disease, Cass County

On January 10, 2007 a presumptive case of meningococcal disease was reported in a Cass County resident. The case is hospitalized. The case presented with high fever and petechial rash. He had gram negative intracellular diplococci in the CSF. The case attends a child-care center in Fargo.

The investigation and contact tracing are being conducted by the North Dakota Department of Health and the Fargo Cass Health Department. All contacts who are candidates for preventive treatment will be notified by public health. Information regarding the case was sent home with parents of day care attendees today.

Meningococcal disease is not highly contagious and transmission occurs through direct contact with infected oral secretions.

Chemoprophylaxis is recommended for the following groups:

- Household contacts
- Child-care and nursery school contacts
- People with direct exposure to the patient's oral secretions
- People who frequently slept or ate in the same dwelling as the patient

The attached table provides recommended antibiotics and dosages for chemoprophylaxis.

More information regarding meningococcal infection can be found at
<http://www.ndhealth.gov/Immunize/Disease/Meningococcal.htm>

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.
- Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

Schedule for Administering Chemoprophylaxis for Meningococcal Disease

Drug	Age Group	Dosage	Duration	Administration
Rifampin*	Children aged < 1 month	5mg/kg every 12 hours	2 days	Oral
	Children aged ≥ 1 month	10 mg/kg every 12 hours	2 days	Oral
	Adults	600 mg every 12 hours	2 days	Oral
Ciprofloxacin†	Adults ≥ 18 years	500 mg	Single dose	Oral
Ceftriaxone (Rocephin®)	Children aged < 15 years	125 mg	Single dose	IM §
	Adolescents and adults ≥ 15 years	250 mg	Single dose	IM §

* Rifampin is not recommended for pregnant women because the drug is teratogenic in laboratory animals. Because the reliability of oral contraceptives may be affected by rifampin therapy, alternative contraceptive measures should be considered while rifampin is being administered.

† Ciprofloxacin is not generally recommended for persons < 18 years of age or for pregnant and lactating women because the drug causes cartilage damage in immature laboratory animals. However, ciprofloxacin can be used for chemoprophylaxis of children when no acceptable alternative therapy is available. Recent literature review identified no reports of irreversible cartilage toxicity or age-associated adverse events among children and adolescents (Source: Burstein GR, Berman SM, Blumer JL, Moran JS. Ciprofloxacin for the treatment of uncomplicated gonorrhea infection in adolescents: does the benefit outweigh the risk? Clin Infect Dis 2002;35:S191-9).

§ Intramuscular.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prevention and Control of Meningococcal Disease Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). MMWR 2005;54(No. RR-7):16.

Meningococcal Disease (invasive) is a mandatory reportable condition in North Dakota. All suspect and confirmed cases should be reported immediately to the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2378 or toll-free at 800.472.2180.